

Commissioner Reports

Fire -- Mark Bapst reported that DA still has no new contract with the Porter Fire Dept but he still expects one by year-end when the contract expires. Even so, we are still covered with the County. Jeffrey Swoger asked Mark to get together with the Environmental Committee and Park Commissioners to develop a plan to reduce the fire danger in Town by systematically cleaning up park land areas. He asked that the plan be presented at the January meeting.

Roads -- Mark Hull reported that some trees overhanging roads have been trimmed. Probably no crack sealing will be applied to any roads this year due to funding shortages. The modified leaf sweeper has been working well. Rock salt will be used on the roads this year since it's available and prices have come down. The forecast, such as it is, is for a warmer winter ... unless it's colder.

Building -- Lou Mellen reported that work continues on the 9 Beach Dr renovation, on the 31 East Rd deck project and on the 12 Ridge Dr new home construction. Tons of sand is being excavated at 12 Ridge Dr. Some of the sand is being used at the Clubhouse parking lot. Much is being dumped on the Harris property on Summit Drive. Asked if any sand should be used to fill flood-damaged areas on the playground, the Environmental Committee will make a decision soon. With no new projects, there was no Plan Commission meeting for November.

Engineering -- Irv Call reported that the temperature indicator is installed at the pump house. The new furniture is in at the Security Office. New windows will be installed in the Security Office soon. The Security Office rear gate project is on-going and should be completed by March. Irv also commented that the Town is still waiting for roof repairs at the Clubhouse to be completed. Mark Hull is going to rattle some cages to get things moving before the first snowfall. The front door of the Clubhouse is in poor shape and needs rehab work. Irv and Harold King will rebuild the entrance next spring.

Environmental Committee -- Jan Bapst had nothing new to report.

John Sullivan reported that the deer cull continues.

Old Business

Two Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) Grant applications were signed. The first grant application for \$6,400 (\$3,200 from the LMCP with an equal dollar match from the Town) is for the restoration of DA Town Park F (East Rd & Lupine Lane) by removing invasives. The other application for \$29,863 (\$14,900 from LMCP, \$4,000 from the Nature Conservancy, \$8,000 from the Shirley Heinze Foundation; \$2,963 from the

DACIF) is for a second grant for native species reestablishment in the Dune Acres portion of Cowles Bog.

Bill Nixon reported that the Dune Acres Code Book will be updated to include the three new 2009 ordinances as "addendums," a cost savings decision. The entire Code Book will be updated when more ordinances can be included.

Earlier this year the property owner at 15 Oak Dr had expressed an interest in either swapping a parcel of his land for an equal parcel of DA park land, or possibly buying some DA park land right out. The Town Attorney is looking into whether the Town can even sell park land ... or should sell park land.

New Business

The Town Council has been considering a comprehensive Utility Operation Ordinance for about a year and wishes to move the idea forward. The idea is to develop detailed guidelines for trimming trees around power or other utility lines, and digging up or trenching a road. The Environmental Committee will determine the pertinent points of the ordinance. The Town Attorney will then turn these points into an ordinance for public discussion.

The Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Rate is being reviewed as the Town feels the pinch of lower real estate values and tax caps. The Town Council will consider increasing our current CCD tax rate of 0.01% to 0.05% -- possibly to be implemented all at once or possibly phased in. The Town Council will schedule a public meeting to hear the residents' views. The bottom line is that the Town needs more tax revenues or further service cuts.

Bob Evans, Editor
October 18, 2009

Note: This report covers only pertinent details that may be of interest to DA residents in general. The official Town Council Minutes will be posted on the DA website after the Town Council approves them at which time this report will be removed.